



## The Hanford Advisory Board

The Hanford Advisory Board (HAB, Board) is a non-partisan, broadly representative body consisting of 38 member seats interested in the cleanup of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) complex located in southeastern Washington state where plutonium was produced for the national defense effort during World War II and the Cold War. The HAB works to provide consensus advice to DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), collectively known as the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies, on major policy issues related to the cleanup of the Hanford Site.

The HAB was chartered in 1994 by DOE under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The HAB is one of eight local site citizen advisory boards that make up the DOE Office of Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board. The purpose of the charter and development of the HAB is to provide a forum for bringing together diverse views, cultures, and demographics from communities and regions affected by Hanford Site cleanup activities.

## Chair's Message: 2022



**Janice Catrell, Interim HAB Chair**

The year 2022 has been a time of transition for the HAB. Recent events have influenced our operations in significant ways. COVID-19 effectively closed the Hanford Site, resulting in employees working from home. HAB meetings continued in a virtual space; our facilitation team guided the meetings, adapting innovations to allow maximum participation.

During the hiatus of COVID-19, term limits for HAB members were put into place. In June, membership term was determined to be a maximum of 6 years. The HAB had a number of members who were actively engaged since its inception nearly 25 years ago and we acknowledged the many contributions of these long-term individuals. The membership changed dramatically at that time, nomination packages were submitted to fill the vacant seats, both for specified and

public-at-large positions. Headquarters approved the appointment of many new members this year, allowing a fresh perspective to be represented.

As COVID-19 has subsided, in-person meetings have resumed. A virtual component is supported for most meetings, allowing individuals to determine a level of participation appropriate for their circumstances. In a recent HAB meeting, virtual attendees outnumbered those who participated in person. We hope the numbers of participants in the room will increase over time, allowing more collaboration and interaction among individuals.

As the HAB adjusted to the hybrid circumstances, productivity picked up. This year saw the consensus approval of the annual Budget Advice (#312), as well as two other pieces of advice, specifically on HAB Membership Changes (#311) and Response to Leaking Waste Tanks (#313).

A working group has been established with a select number of Tri-Party Agency representatives and HAB leaders. The working group is focused on updating the original HAB foundational documents and crafting policy and guidance to carry the HAB forward in a way that reflects current practices.

The HAB has also had opportunities to visit the Hanford site. Members were invited for a bus tour of the facilities so that members could see the geographic area and the interconnected cleanup processes. The Health, Safety, and Environmental Protection Committee

hosted a visit to the mockup of the 324 Building site, where members could observe the exacting process of donning and doffing the suits that protect workers from radioactive contamination in the workplace.

As the HAB returns to regular in person meetings, we find that many seats with appointed members are vacant during hybrid meetings. We are looking for ways to increase the level of participation to

ensure that the various representative voices are being heard.

It has been a distinct honor for me to hold an interim HAB leadership role this year. The HAB occupies a unique place among the Site-Specific Advisory Boards. The values and commitment demonstrated by the membership help to influence and advise the TPA Agencies in the goal of cleanup to the highest beneficial use. ■

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## At a Glance

### What is the Hanford Advisory Board?

The Hanford Advisory Board has the following attributes:

- **Mission oriented:** The primary mission of the HAB is to provide informed recommendations and consensus advice to the TPA agencies on major policy issues related to Hanford Site cleanup.
- **Policy focused:** The HAB focuses on difficult policy-level issues associated with a long history of plutonium production and the resulting contamination from radioactive and chemical waste.
- **Diverse:** The HAB is made up of 38 member seats representing a variety of constituencies from local interests, environmental perspectives, business groups, tribal nations, public health representatives, state of Oregon officials, university professionals, public-at-large representatives, and the Hanford workforce.
- **Collaborative:** The HAB operates by consensus.
- **Dedicated:** The HAB has provided 313 pieces of consensus advice to the TPA agencies over the last 28 years.
- **Robust:** The HAB maintains six standing committees that routinely meet throughout the year to discuss issues of relevance to the Site's cleanup.
- **Inviting:** All HAB meetings are open to the public. The HAB actively reaches out to different communities to increase awareness of and involvement in Hanford cleanup. More information about the HAB, including all HAB advice, responses, and correspondence can be found at [www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/hab](http://www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/hab).

## Advice in 2022

The HAB adopted three pieces of advice in 2022. To read the advice, along with the TPA agency responses in their entirety, visit:

[www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/hab/AdviceandResponses](http://www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/hab/AdviceandResponses).

### Advice #311

#### Hanford Advisory Board Membership Changes

Adopted March 24, 2022

### Advice #312

#### Fiscal Year 2024 Hanford Cleanup Priorities

Adopted March 24, 2022

### Advice #313

#### Responding to Leaking High-Level Radioactive Waste Tanks

Adopted March 24, 2022



As part of the 2022 HAB member orientation, HAB members and supporting staff had the opportunity to learn about the history of both the HAB and the Hanford Site, which included a guided bus tour of the Hanford Site and its supporting facilities, such as the Volpentest HAMMER Federal Training Center (pictured).



## Committees of the Board

The Board is composed of six committees that typically meet or hold conference calls quarterly. At the committee level, members work on complex issues that are the underpinnings of the policies governing cleanup at Hanford. The committees develop draft advice based on shared information, discussion, and Board values. They then develop consensus on specific advice points. Once advice has committee consensus, the committee brings it to the full Board for consideration and possible adoption.

The Board's two technical committees, the River and Plateau Committee (RAP) and the Tank Waste Committee (TWC), are responsible for understanding and tracking current and planned cleanup work. Three other committees, the Budgets and Contracts Committee (BCC), Public Involvement and Communications Committee (PIC), and the Health, Safety, and Environmental Protection Committee (HSEP) are tasked with tracking broader, sitewide issues. The Board chair and vice chair and the committee chairs and vice chairs convene as the Executive Issues Committee (EIC) to address leadership issues.

Committee activities fall under an overall work plan that identifies priority topics for discussion. Topics are brought forward as they are timely through collaborative discussions with committee members, TPA agency representatives, and Hanford Site contractors. Within a committee, individuals self-identify as issue managers when they have a strong interest or expertise in a particular cleanup issue and wish to work with the TPA agency content experts and committee leadership to research and frame topics for committee discussions. Issue managers act on behalf of the committee and typically take the lead on advice development.



The HAB resumed holding in-person meetings with remote participation options starting with the May 2022 Committee of the Whole, following nearly two years of fully-remote meetings.

## Board Work in 2022

The HAB and its committees have been learning about and evaluating matters across the Hanford Site. In 2022, the HAB held four full Board meetings, three Committee of the Whole meetings, and 14 committee meetings. The following presentations provided by the TPA agencies and contractor staff represent many of the subjects that the HAB members have discussed over the year.

### Hanford Advisory Board

- Quarterly DOE, EPA, and Ecology Updates
- Risk Management Framework
- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act Five-Year Review
- Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant Update
- Hanford Leaking Tanks Agreed Order

### Committee of the Whole

- Office of Environmental Management's (EM) Efforts Under the Justice40 Initiative and the EM Minority Serving Institutions Partnership Program
- Washington's Environmental Justice Law and Hanford
- Tri-Party Agreement
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
- CERCLA (Superfund) 101
- Decision Making by Consensus



Rather than a standard presentation on the subject, the Health, Safety, and Environmental Protection Committee (HSEP) learned about the 324 Building first-hand by taking a tour of the full-scale mockup facility used to train workers.

HSEP members learned how workers trained to don and doff personal protective equipment (PPE) for airlock entry and exit, including radiation protection measures in place to prevent the spread of radiological contamination, and learned about the components and equipment that would be used for work at the 324 Building.

## Tank Waste Committee

- One Hanford Validation – Phase Gate Approach
- Tank Integrity Program Update on SX Farm Tank Domes Under Observation
- Direct-Feed Low Activity Waste, Tanks, and Tank-Side Cesium Removal
- Tank Integrity and Monitoring Program

## River and Plateau Committee

- 2021 Groundwater Update
- Progress Update on Effluent Treatment Facility Upgrades to Support the Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste Program
- Central Plateau Water Treatment Facility
- Upcoming Tri-Party Agreement Milestone Changes
- Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility
- K East Reactor Interim Safe Storage Project
- 200-ZP-1 Groundwater Operable Unit Optimization Study
- Cumulative Impact Evaluation Overview and Update

## Public Involvement and Communications Committee

- Response to Comments Process
- Upcoming Tri-Party Agreement Milestone Changes

## 2022 Board and Committee Leadership

### Board Leadership

**Chair:** Jan Catrell, Washington League of Women Voters

**Vice Chair:** Susan Coleman, Public-at-Large

### National Liaison

Pam Larsen, Benton County

### River and Plateau Committee

**Chair:** Tom Sicilia, Oregon Department of Energy

**Vice Chair:** Larry Haler, Public-at-Large

### Tank Waste Committee

**Chair:** Rob Davis, City of Pasco

### Health, Safety, and Environmental Protection Committee

**Chair:** Becky Holland, Hanford Atomic Metal Trades

**Vice Chair:** Richard Bloom, City of West Richland

### Budgets and Contracts Committee

**Chair:** Chris Sutton, Public-at-Large

### Public Involvement and Communications Committee

**Chair:** Dan Solitz, Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board

## Getting Involved with Board Work

If you're interested in the Board's work or in learning more about cleanup at the Hanford Site, there are several ways that you can stay involved and informed:

**Talk to your Board member** — There are 38 seats on the Board representing perspectives from local governments, the Hanford workforce, public health and environmental organizations, universities, the public-at-large, and tribal nations. Talk to a representative to learn more and to share your thoughts. Current membership lists are maintained on the Hanford Advisory Board's website (<https://www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/hab/MembersLiaisonsandStaff>).

**Attend a HAB meeting** — If you are interested in learning about HAB work and cleanup at Hanford, consider attending a Board or committee meeting. HAB and committee meetings are open to the public and occur almost monthly throughout the year. Meetings are held in Richland and information on upcoming meetings can be found on the Hanford website ([www.hanford.gov](http://www.hanford.gov)) under the Event Calendar.

**Become a member** — Most seats on the Board consist of a primary member and an alternate. As seats become open, individual organizations or interest groups nominate replacements. For more information on the process of becoming a member of the HAB, contact one of the TPA agency representatives listed below.

### Did you know...?

All HAB meetings, including its committee meetings, are open to the public! Check out the events calendar at [Hanford.gov](http://Hanford.gov) for a full list of upcoming HAB events.

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### HAB Library and Facilitation

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